

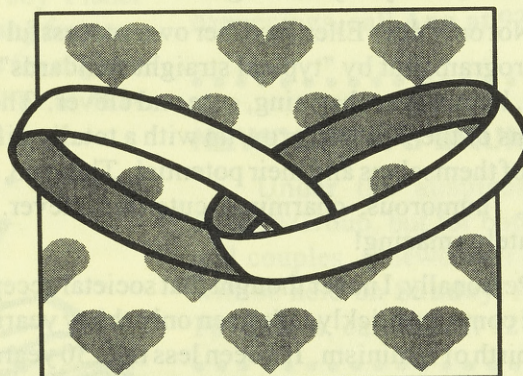
APRIL 1997
VOLUME 13 NO.4



SACWN PRESENTS...

A WEDDING SALON

WITH
JOY FISHER AND
JOYCE AUSTIN



Joy Fisher and Joyce Austin had a Hawaiian wedding in McKinley Park last April. They have been closely monitoring the legal happenings in Hawaii and waiting for the final decision of the Hawaii Supreme Court in the Baehr v. Miike case, the case which is expected to make gay marriage a reality in the United States. They will discuss the case to date and the possible implications it has for lesbians and gay people.

If you don't want to wait to marry (or want to be the first in line when the decision comes down), they'll also share some tips about planning your own wedding.

Date: Friday, April 18, 1997
Place: SACWN Office
3031 F Street, Suite 201
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$ 5 Member
\$10 Non-members and
At the Door

See ticket order form on inside back cover.
An event for women over 21.

From the Steering Committee

It is the season of renewal and change. It seems that there will be lots of change in the coming months for us as lesbian women.

Ellen is coming out of the closet. Can you reach back 20 years in your memory or to the time you first understood that you were a lesbian? Did you have the feeling that you were the only woman in the world that felt the way you did? Did it scare you when you recognized you were a lesbian? Did you have the sense of carrying around a big secret?

How much different would it have felt if there was an "out" lesbian television character? How much easier would it have been to be more self accepting, more self loving if we could watch a "normal" lesbian on weekly television? Can you just imagine?

Not only does Ellen have her own successful television program, but by "typical straight standards" she is bright, humorous, charming, cute and clever. The baby lesbians of the 90's will grow up with a totally different sense of themselves and their potential. They too, can be bright, humorous, charming, cute and clever. It is absolutely amazing!

Personally, I never thought that societal acceptance would come so quickly. It's been only thirty years since the rebirth of feminism. It's been less than 30 years since feminists tried to deny the existence of lesbians to keep "their" movement from seeming anti-male. It's less than 30 years since Stonewall when the dykes supported the queens in standing up to police harassment. Gay pride is less than 30 years old, the first parades, marches and activities occurring in the mid-seventies.

Societal change can happen slowly when you are waiting for it, but while you are going about defining your own sense of self and living life by your own personal code, thirty years can seem like a blink of the eye.

And now, we are about to have the right, should we choose, to marry. By all indications, the Supreme Court in Hawaii will decide that marriage between two consenting adults is legal. And while there will be challenges, straight society is about to see, that two lesbians, legally married, will have little or no impact on their lives or their sense of the sanctity of marriage.

To better understand this phenomenon, join SACWN for an informal gathering to discuss the Hawaiian court case and how to plan a wedding.

Special thanks to Kathy Mengle for leading the successful poetry salon last month.

Change is coming. Remember to take a deep breath and marvel in how much lesbian life has evolved in the past thirty years. And give yourself credit for being an important part of that evolution by the honesty you maintain in your life.

SACWN ADVERTISING RATES

Type	Member	Non-Mem
Business Card	\$25	\$37
3 1/4 x 1 3/4		
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4 1/2 x 2 3/4		
Quarter page	\$50	\$75
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Half page	\$90	\$135
7 1/8 x 4 1/2		
or 3 1/2 x 9 1/2		
Full page	\$180	\$240
7 1/2 x 9 1/2		
Classified ads (per word)	.40	.60
Discounts	1 year 20%	
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SACWN STEERING COMMITTEE

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SACWN, Inc. newsletter is published monthly, ten times a year. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission from SACWN, Inc. Letters to the Editor, articles and community announcements are welcome. Materials submitted may be edited and shortened based on available space. Deadline for submission of material is the third Friday of the month before publication. For more information, contact Sandy Virago at 451-8034.

Special Interest Groups - April 1997

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are small groups of women who meet around a common interest. It's a great way to meet other lesbians in an informal environment. Just give the facilitator a call and she'll be glad to tell you all about the group.

TOP 10

Dinner at Otis' Bar-be-que at 2990 Florin Road, 422-6847 on **April 26**. Call **Paula at 721-6409** by April 22 for reservations. Those interested in car-pooling to the Asparagus Festival on **April 27**, **RSVP to Dee 443-2377** by April 24.

Many thanks to all who participated in the St. Patrick's Day potluck. It was very successful.

TOP 10 is a group of women over 50 and women who love women over 50!

RAINBOW CAMPERS

Here's the schedule for the 1997 summer of camping fun.

Apr 11-13- Coloma; Joyce & Barbara 929-3074

May 16 & 17 - Sandy Beach Delta Park; Kathleen 684-3741

June 20 & 21 - Casini Ranch; Casey & C.J. 366-7362

July 4-6 - Mt. Shasta, Scott Flats; Vicki 564-6907

August 8, - Wrights Beach; Carolyn & Nancy 381-8175

Sept. 20-21 - Coloma; Linda & Denice 641-8565

All campers are welcome with tents, trucks, RVs, or sleeping bags under the stars!

1/2 FAST HIKING GROUP (FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY)

Join us on Sunday, April 13 for a beautiful but easy wildflower hike overlooking the scenic Yuba River. You can bring lunch to eat by the river, and take a stroll through the covered bridge. For those with energy to spare, there is a moderately easy trail leading to a lake. For details call **Ann at 443-3638** or **Sue at 927-8320**.

PINOCHLE GROUP

Pinochle, anyone? Joy Fisher and Joyce Austin are looking for non-smoking pinochle players for regular get-togethers. Please call us at **452-5513**.



THE BOOK GROUP

The book under discussion at the April meeting will be Memory Board by Jane Rule. The meeting will be held at the SACWN office. Call **Joy 452-5513 for date and time**. The book for May will be An Unknown Woman by Alice Koller.

CYBERSIG

With renewed interest, we're back. Let's get acquainted again and discover neat places, find cool resources and talk to other women on the Web. Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, April 13 from 1:00 to 2:30**. E-mail Anna at afong@csus.edu or call **916/739-6366** for directions.

SINGLES GROUP

Join us for some or all of the following:

April 12 - San Francisco trip, Pier 39 and Museum

April 19 - Game night and potluck

April 26 - Day trip to Sonoma, Napa Valley

April 27 - Children's Event, Fairy Tale Town & Picnic

April 30 - Ellen's Coming Out Party at Carol's House 983-0610

For details on any of the above happenings, call **Ann at 927-6038**.

NEWCOMER'S BRUNCH

Under the auspices of the Singles Group, but for both singles and couples, a newcomer's brunch will be held on **Sunday, April 20**. For details, call **Ann at 927-6038**.

DYKES WITH DOGS

Does your dog love to play? Then join this new SIG for some off leash fun.

Join us on Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 am for a trip to the Yolo bypass levee (about ten minutes from downtown). The orchard trees will be in full bloom for us with running and swimming for the dogs.

Have a suggestion for romping areas, please call me and let me know. Future plans include a road trip to the enormous Berkely dog park on the Bay.

Call Diane at 983-0610 for details and suggestions.

SACWN CALENDAR

SACWN EVENTS

The format of the SACWN Salon includes an hour of mingling with a drink in hand followed by a discussion led by the presenter for the evening. The Salons are held at the SACWN office and usually attended by about 20 women.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997 SACWN SALON HAWAIIAN WEDDING PROJECT

Sacwnites Joy Fisher and Joyce Austin will tell us about the project, it's herstory, goals, progress to date and expectations for the future. Want to know how to plan a wedding? Ask Joyce, she'll be glad to share the process she and Joy used in planning their ceremony.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1997 STARLIGHT SERENADE DANCE CAL EXPO

Welcome the summer and Gay Pride Month by dancing under the stars at CAL EXPO. It will be a very special treat. Save this date!

JULY 18 -20 THE FIFTH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO WOMEN'S GATHERING AT CAMP AUGUSTA

We rent the campground for the weekend and celebrate being together. It's a little bit like going to camp when you were a kid, and a little bit like going to a family reunion with cousins that you really like.

There will be workshops, a dance, and lots of free time. Canoeing, hiking and swimming at the base of a forty foot waterfall with 60 other lesbians is a joy that can't be found elsewhere! There are even hot, private showers! Is this the definition of heaven?

Be sure to keep this weekend open. The sisterhood is empowering!

DESIGNS STILL WANTED FOR T-SHIRT

There is still time to have your design appear on the 1997 Sacramento Women's Gathering T-shirt. Call Sandy at 451-8034 for all the details.

BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

Couple's group emphasizing solutions and growth in establishing committed long-term relationships. Meets 2xs per month.

Faciliator: Melinda Facelli MFCC

MFC30351 - 783-0563



SACWNITE'S ART ACCEPTED IN NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL

Deidre Daugherty, local artist and SACWNite has had 5 pieces of her bronze work accepted in the largest showcase of art talent produced in New York City.

The New York International Independent Film and Video Festival and the International Talent Network have merged. Their event, running from April 23 through May 6th will be attended by thousands of art dealers, gallery owners, private collectors and film, theater and entertainment professionals as well as the general public.

Deidre knew the merger provided the opportunity for her work to be considered for the show. "I'm ecstatic that five pieces were selected." Three can be viewed on the film festival's website, www.nyfilmvideo.com.

Her latest sculpture, "Within Reach" depicts a woman standing on the edge of a cliff reaching and catching a star. "The star represents our cherished dreams and goals and the cliff represents all those fears about reaching. If she had looked down, she wouldn't have reached for the star. The star is my dream of a successful fine art career. My work is about the Womanspirit and my inner growth.

Deidre's work is now on display in Placerville at the Gold Country Artist's Gallery, 379 Main Street. If you would like more information, she can be reached at 672-1526.

SUCCESSFUL SACWNITES

If you've ever believed that lesbians are incapable of having succesful, lasting relationships you haven't been hanging out with the right crowd. Try the SACWN Top Ten Group or maybe Eagle. And then, just dare try telling Betty or Dot, co-founders of Eagle, that success is only about your professional accomplishments. They'll open your eyes, warm your hearts and make you laugh while showing you the true meaning of success.

Betty Welch, born in Illinois in 1929, moved from Chicago to Los Angeles when she was about nineteen. She got a job selling sewing needles for a major manufacturer and saved the money to purchase a home with her father. Then they sent for the rest of the family.

Betty had been struggling with her sexual identity from an early age. As she put it she was, "in and out of love fifty times on an elevator." In Los Angeles she became engaged to a man who introduced Betty to her first gay bar. Apparently he knew something she didn't and was kind enough to enlighten her. Betty spent a few years trying out her new found freedom when she decided to make a change and move away again.

While living in Chicago, Betty had learned how to operate a key-punch. She got a job with the government as a civil service worker and now was transferring from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. As fate would have it, Betty had an accident en-route to Washington and ended up in Texas. It was there that she met a woman with whom she would spend 33 wonderful years.

Dorothy Kostenbader, born in 1926, in Yakima Valley, Washington, came to Stockton, California after becoming a teacher. "I wanted to be an archeologist, but women weren't allowed in that field, so I decided to teach." Dot, as she is more commonly known, met a fellow teacher in Sacramento while attending a basketball game. The two women fell in love and also spent 33 glorious years together.

After retiring from the civil service where she supervised men in a field that did not look favorably upon women, Betty and her partner moved to Sacramento. Here she became involved in various organizations and charities meeting other gay people and doing volunteer work. In October, 1993, Betty's partner passed away. She was devastated. Her world had turned upside down.

Dot and her partner had led a more secluded life, not making too many friends, but dear close ones. They also settled and bought a home in Sacramento. In February, 1991, Dot's life took a turn as her love lost her life to leukemia.



Born and raised to submit to society and take a back seat to men, Betty and Dot had already beaten the odds and excelled in their professions. They had enjoyed wonderful lives with their women partners, traveling, throwing parties and buying homes, now they had to overcome their greatest obstacle; surviving the loss of a loved one and finding yourself again.

Dot had attended a SACWN function and met some women who told her about a new group forming for older gays and lesbians. Betty's friends had encouraged her to go to the LAMBDA center to find out about the same group. So, venturing forth from different parts of the world, sharing the deepest, common tragedy, these two women stuffed their emotions and decided to begin anew by helping to form a group where others could meet. It was on that night that Betty and Dot met for the first time. Now, three years and a Holy Union later these two women have begun the second chapter of their lives.

Reflecting back on her life, Betty says that believing in and accepting fate is a key ingredient to success. "You just adjust and move on." She also believes that she couldn't have gotten as far as she has without good friends and a sense of community. Volunteering and keeping active has helped Dot to survive. She and Betty give their time to the Maryhouse and continue to participate in SACWN events and groups like the Top Ten.

They both miss their long time companions, but strongly believe that fate has brought them together and they are very happy for that. They joke that someone up above is laughing at the way their lives have unfolded together. I asked them if they were ready for 33 more years? Dot laughed, "Oh, I don't know about that," while Betty sat up straight and looked at me seriously, "sure, why not? The testament to true optomism. Succesful SACWNITES all the way.

OUR SUPPORTERS

LESBIAN RELATIONS APRIL 25 - THE ART OF SELF LOVING: A PRELUDE TO PARTNERSHIP

The best relationship you can have is a loving connection with yourself. The quality of this relationship determines the quality of all others. Discover some fun and some dedicated pathways to self-love. 7-10 p.m. \$15

MAY 23 - PATHWAYS TO INTIMACY

Communication skills for Lesbian Couples. It's not about right or wrong. It is about meaning, intention and potential enhancement and joy of a true partnership. 7-10 p.m. \$15

Pre-registration required. Call 447-0353.

Kate MacKenzie, L.C.S.W.



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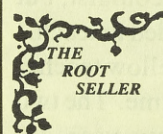


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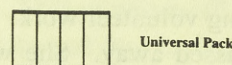
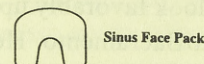
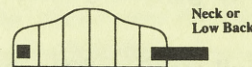
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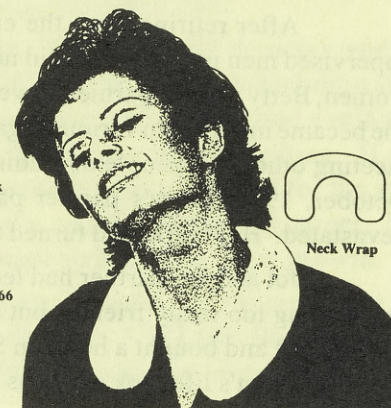
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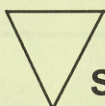


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THE FORMS

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Signature _____ Date _____

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* SENIORS -Age 65+ on Limited Income; STUDENTS - Students 21+ on Limited Income; DISABLED - Disabled Citizens on Limited Income.

**SUSTAINING - Contributing a little extra to help supplement others (Seniors, Students, Disabled) on limited income.

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A WEDDING SALON

WITH
JOY FISHER AND
JOYCE AUSTIN

April 18, 1997
3031 F Street, Suite 201, Sacramento
From 6:30 p.m.

**TO REGISTER
SEND CHECK AND THIS FORM TO:
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**Because of the nature of the program,
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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Number of Tickets: _____
SACWN Member @ \$ 5: _____
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